DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 124 085 HE 007 949

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TITLE The Scope of Entering Freshman Drug Use at the University of South Carolina. A Report of the Annual Entering Freshmen Drug Survey Conducted During Summer Orientation, 1975.
INSTITUTION South Carolina Univ., Columbia. Div. of Student Affairs.
PUB DATE 17 May 76
NOTE 11p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Alcoholic Beverages; *College Freshmen; *Drug Abuse; Drug Addiction; Females; *Higher Education; Males; Marihuana; Narcotics; Questionnaires; *School Surveys; Sedatives; Sex Differences; *Statistical Studies; Tables (Data); Tobacco
IDENTIFIERS *University of South Carolina

ABSTRACT

The 1975 Entering Freshmen Drug Survey was administered during alternate weeks at Summer Orientation to obtain a representative sample. A false drug (derbisol) was included in the questionnaire as a validity check. A total of 848 students (28 percent of the freshman class) was surveyed. The data indicated a stabilization of drug usage for most drug categories when compared with previous surveys. The usage of alcohol, amphetamines, narcotics, tobacco, and tranquilizers had increased by negligible amounts since the 1974 survey; use of hallucinogens, barbiturates, cocaine, and marijuana/hashish had decreased by negligible amounts. Important sex differences were noted, with females reporting higher usage levels in seven of the ten categories while closing the gap in the other three drug categories. The data clearly demonstrate that substantial numbers of entering freshmen already have well-defined levels of usage of individual drugs and drug categories upon entering the University of South Carolina. It is recommended that the Freshman Drug Survey be administered every other year at Summer Orientation to enable the University to monitor the levels of drug usage of entering freshmen. (LBH)

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Division of Student Affairs

ED124085

THE SCOPE OF ENTERING FRESHMAN DRUG USE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

A Report of the Annual Entering Freshman Drug Survey Conducted During Summer Orientation, 1975

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IHE 060949

May 17, 1976

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1975 ENTERING FRESHMAN DRUG SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

The 1975 Entering Freshman Drug Survey was administered during alternate weeks at Summer Orientation to obtain a representative sample. This survey was similar in content to past U.S.C. Drug Surveys, but was presented in a different format to facilitate administration. The additional survey items included in the 1974 Drug Survey, concerning drug effect and reduced drug usage, were excluded. A false drug (derbisol) was included in the questionnaire as a validity check. The careful reader may want to make reference to the reports of the 1971, 1972, and 1974 drug surveys to achieve a better understanding of the results and methodology involved in the 1975 Entering Freshman Drug Survey.

The 1975 Entering Freshman Drug Survey report differs from the 1971, 1972, and 1974 reports in that the tables are not included. The tables, which contain the data for 1975 entering freshmen, are on file in the Academic Planning Office. The appendixes[1] which provide comparison data among this year's and past surveys of entering freshmen are reported along with a short section on key findings and recommendations. It is considered that comparison of data among 1971, 1972, 1974, and 1975 surveys yields valid results in portraying changes in drug usage during this period.

[1] Appendixes E (Marital Status) and F (College) which were included in past reports are not reported in this survey.

PRINCIPAL FINDINGS

A total of 848 students took part in the 1975 Entering Freshman Drug Survey administered during the 1975 Summer Orientation Program at U.S.C. The participants represented about 28% of U.S.C.'s freshman class.[2]

In comparing the 1975 findings with previous survey results, the data indicated a stabilization of drug usage for most drug categories. The usage of alcohol, amphetamines, narcotics, tobacco, and tranquilizers had increased by negligible amounts since the 1974 survey. The usage of hallucinogens, barbiturates, cocaine, and marijuana/hashish had decreased by negligible amounts. (see Appendix C)

In terms of "semi-regular" and "regular" usage increases were reported for alcohol and tobacco. There was a slight increase in 1975 for "experimental" usage of amphetamines, barbiturates, hallucinogens, marijuana/hashish, narcotics and tranquilizers. These same drug categories experienced decreases in "semi-regular" and "regular" usage when compared to the 1974 survey results. (see Appendix H)

Important sex differences have emerged since the drug survey was first administered. (see Appendix G) In the 1971 drug survey males had higher levels of usage in every drug category except tranquilizers. In the 1974 survey males still led in every drug category except tranquilizers. An almost complete reversal took place in the 1975 drug survey with females reporting higher usage levels in seven of the ten categories while closing the gap in the other three drug categories. The seven categories in which females reported higher usage were alcohol, amphetamines, barbiturates, methaqualone, narcotics, tobacco, and tranquilizers. Males continued to show higher usage of cocaine, hallucinogens, and marijuana/hashish. More importantly, in 1975 females increased their drug usage in all ten drug

[2] The sample was considerably underrepresented by married students.

categories, while males decreased drug usage in all ten drug categories. The greatest female increases were in the "experimental" category.[3] Female drug usage increased the most with amphetamines (6.4%), marijuana/hashish (5.7%), narcotics (4.8%), and alcohol (4.5%). Male drug usage decreased the most with marijuana/hashish (6.4%), hallucinogens (4.9%), and tobacco (4.4%).

When comparing the 1975 data with that of 1974, out-of-state students continued to report higher usage of alcohol, hallucinogens, marijuana/hashish, methaqualone, and tobacco. In-state students led in the usage of amphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine, narcotics and tranquilizers. (see Appendix D)

The data reported for Entering Freshmen in the five U.S.C. Drug Surveys clearly demonstrate that substantial numbers of entering freshman already have well-defined levels of usage of individual drugs and drug categories upon entering the University of South Carolina. These levels for some students include "semi-regular" or "regular" usage. Of particular importance is the trend noted in this survey of increased drug usage by females entering the University.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Freshman Drug Survey be administered every other year at Summer Orientation to enable the University to monitor the levels of drug usage of entering freshmen.

[3]This finding is reported in Table 4 of the complete drug survey.

U.S.C. ENTERING FRESHMAN DRUG QUESTIONNAIRE

Do not sign your name on any of the questionnaire material. Answer all questions as directed or indicated.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: (Check the correct response for each item)

1. SEX: ___ Male ___ Female

2. MARITAL STATUS: ___ Single ___ Married ___ Other

3. COLLEGE OR SCHOOL:

___ Business Adm. ___ Health & P.E. ___ Pharmacy
___ Education ___ Humanities & Soc. Sc. ___ Sc. & Math.
___ Engineering ___ Journalism ___ Undecided
___ General Studies ___ Nursing

4. RESIDENCY: ___ South Carolina ___ Other State or Nation

5. HOUSING PLANS: ___ Live in non-University housing.
___ Live in University housing including married students' apartments.

6. ECONOMIC BACKGROUND: Please estimate your parents' total taxable income last year. Give your best estimate. If you are married or self-supporting, please omit this item.

___ Less than $9,999 ___ $10,000-$19,999 ___ $20,000 or more

7. RACE (Optional): ___ Caucasian ___ Black ___ American Indian ___ Other

DRUG USAGE: Indicate the extent to which you have used each of the following drugs or drug types on a non-prescription basis during the past 12 months. For each drug or drug type select one of the following eight responses which most nearly describes your average usage and circle the appropriate response. Note: Indicate only non-prescription usage.

DRUG OR DRUG TYPE	Never	Only Once	Once Every 3 Mo	Once a Month	Twice a Month	Once a Wk.	Twice a Wk.	Daily
Beer or Wine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Other Alcoholic Beverages	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Tobacco	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Amphetamines (Green & Pink amps, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Barbiturates (Seconal, Nembutal, Amytal, Tuinal, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Benzedrine (Bennies)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Biphetamines (Black Beauties, T-20s, Reds & Blacks, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cocaine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Codeine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cough Medicine (Romilar, Robitussin, Novahistine, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Derbisol (Derbies)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Dexedrine (Dexies)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Diet Pills (Not prev. listed)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Hashish	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Heroin	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
LSD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Marijuana	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mescaline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
MDA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Methadone	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Methamphetamine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Methaqualone (Quaaludes, Sophors)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Tranquilizers (Miltown, Equanil, Librium, Valium, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

APPENDIX A

COMPARISON OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ENTERING FRESHMAN SAMPLE WITH TOTAL FRESHMAN POPULATION

Fall, 1975

VARIABLE	SAMPLE	POPULATION
SEX	**N= 848**	**N= 3035**
MALE	52.4%	53%
FEMALE	47.3%	46.4%
NOT REPORTED	.4%	0.0%
MARITAL STATUS	**N= 848**	**N= 3035**
SINGE	96.7%	82.1%
MARRIED	2.0%	17.9%
OTHER	.4%	
NOT REPORTED	.9%	
COLLEGE	**N= 848**	**N= 3035**
Business Administation	15.3%	13.5%
Education	6.1%	6.3%
Engineering	7.9%	5.6%
General Studies	13.2%	14.0%
Health & Physical Ed.	2.6%	1.9%
Humanities & Soc. Sci.[1]	25.9%	41.0%
Journalism	1.7%	4.8%
Nursing	8.3%	5.6%
Pharmacy	2.2%	2.0%
Science and Math	16.4%	5.2%
LEGAL RESIDENCE	**N= 848**	**N= 3035**
SOUTH CAROLINA	88.8%	84.5%
OUT-OF-STATE	10.4%	15.5%
NOT REPORTED	.8%	0.0%

[1] The figures for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences include the following: Liberal Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, and undecided.

APPENDIX B

PERCENTAGE OF ENTERING FRESHMAN WHO REPORTED USING DRUGS AT LEAST ONCE DURING PAST TWELVE MONTHS

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Beer/Wine (Alcohol)	87.4	85.5	80.6	87.9	89.7
Other Alcohol		74.9			
Amphetamines	15.7	17.5	19.0	17.9	19.8
Barbiturates	2.3	2.8	8.8	11.4	11.1
Cocaine				9.9	9.1
Hallucinogens	11.5	10.4	14.0	15.3	14.0
Marijuana/Hashish	30.8	34.7	42.1	42.2	41.6
Methaqualone			7.6	9.1	9.1
Narcotics	6.1	6.8	10.1	8.1	9.7
Tobacco	50.6	49.5	51.0	46.2	47.8
Tranquilizers	10.2	11.7	13.4	14.6	15.2

APPENDIX C

PERCENTAGE[1] OF ENTERING FRESHMEN WHO REPORTED USING DRUGS AT LEAST ONE DURING THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS BY LEGAL RESIDENCE

	In-State					Out-of-State				
	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Beer/Wine (Alcohol) Other Alcohol	85.9	86.6	87.1	86.7	88.9	92.6	94.2	96.6	93.7	96.7
Amphetamines	15.5	17.0	19.2	18.2	20.2	15.9	22.4	23.0	15.9	15.9
Barbiturates	1.8	2.4	10.1	10.7	11.3	3.6	4.0	8.4	14.4	9.0
Cocaine				9.3	9.2				12.7	9.1
Hallucinogens	10.6	9.8	13.7	14.3	13.8	14.2	13.0	16.3	20.9	15.9
Marijuana/Hashish	29.0	33.1	40.6	38.3	39.8	37.5	43.0	50.6	62.8	59.1
Methaqualone			6.5	8.2	8.7				13.4	12.5
Narcotics	5.4	6.3	9.7	7.8	10.0	8.8	8.5	11.2	8.5	6.8
Tobacco	51.6	50.1	49.3	45.4	47.7	49.5	47.5	56.7	51.9	48.2
Tranquilizers	10.4	11.1	13.2	14.5	15.7	8.9	13.9	14.1	15.1	10.2

[1] Adjusted frequency

APPENDIX D

PERCENTAGE[1] OF ENTERING FRESHMEN WHO REPORTED USING DRUGS AT LEAST ONCE DURING THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS BY SEX

	Men					Women				
	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Beer/Wine (Alcohol) Other Alcohol	89.6	88.6	90.1	90.0	89.4	84.4	86.4	87.4	85.7	90.2
Amphetamines	15.7	16.1	19.7	20.0	17.3	15.5	19.7	19.6	15.9	22.3
Barbiturates	2.6	2.7	10.8	13.3	10.5	2.0	2.6	9.0	9.5	11.7
Cocaine				12.7	10.7				7.0	7.6
Hallucinogens	12.2	11.4	15.8	19.9	15.0	10.4	9.0	12.0	10.7	12.9
Marijuana/Hashish	33.1	37.8	44.5	48.8	42.4	28.1	30.8	39.6	35.1	40.8
Methaqualone			8.0	10.7	8.6			7.1	7.4	9.4
Narcotics	7.0	7.1	10.9	10.0	8.3	5.0	6.3	9.0	6.2	11.0
Tobacco	52.8	49.4	50.2	49.1	44.7	48.8	49.8	50.7	43.5	51.1
Tranquilizers	7.3	9.1	11.8	14.5	11.9	14.0	14.3	15.0	14.6	18.4

[1]Adjusted frequency

APPENDIX G

PERCENTAGE[1] OF ENTERING FRESHMAN REPORTING DRUG USE BY FREQUENCY

	Experimental[2]					Semi-Regular and Regular[3]					Total				
	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Alcohol	20.9	21.8	18.6	20.1	17.4	66.5	65.9	70.0	67.8	72.3	87.4	87.7	88.6	87.9	89.7
Amphetamines	9.7	10.3	12.7	9.9	12.8	5.9	7.2	7.1	8.0	7.0	15.6	17.5	19.8	17.9	19.8
Barbiturates	1.7	1.9	6.5	6.6	8.2	0.5	0.9	3.6	4.9	2.9	2.2	2.8	10.1	11.4	11.1
Cocaine				7.9	7.5				2.0	1.6				9.9	9.1
Hallucinogens	6.9	6.8	9.9	9.9	11.2	4.6	3.6	4.1	5.3	2.8	11.5	10.4	14.0	15.3	14.0
Marijuana/Hashish	11.7	13.3	13.0	11.7	14.8	19.1	21.4	29.1	30.5	26.8	30.8	34.7	42.1	42.2	41.6
Methaqualone			4.7	5.1	6.1			2.9	3.1	3.0			7.6	9.1	9.1
Narcotics	5.1	5.1	7.7	6.5	8.3	0.9	1.6	2.4	1.6	1.4	6.0	6.7	10.1	8.1	9.7
Tobacco	13.5	17.6	17.0	14.4	12.5	37.2	31.9	34.0	31.8	35.3	50.7	49.5	51.0	46.2	47.8
Tranquilizers	7.4	8.1	8.6	8.6	10.4	2.8	3.6	4.8	6.0	4.8	10.2	11.7	13.4	14.6	15.2

[1]Adjusted frequency
[2]Experimental - Once and Once In Three Months
[3]Semi-Regular and Regular - Once a Month, Twice a Month, Once a Week, Twice a Week and Daily

APPENDIX H